

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00410 091610Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 PM-07 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

/098 W

----- 046306

R 091445Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1246

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS AO

SUBJ: REPORTED MASSACRE NEAR CARMONA

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS CARRIED STORIES OF LARGE MASSACRE OF AFRICAN COFFEE WORKERS BY TERRORISTS. STORY WAS CONFIRMED BY MILITARY SPOKESMAN BUT ITS VALIDITY WAS QUESTIONED BY ANOTHER SOURCE. CONGEN WILL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY.

1. THE JULY 27-28 ISSUES OF BOTH LUANDA DAILIES CARRIED IDENTICAL, NON-SENSATIONALIZED STORIES OF "MASSACRE" OF AFRICAN COFFEE WORKERS ON ROAD NORTH OF CARMONA, NEAR SMALL TOWN OF SONGO. STORIES REPORTED THAT A TRUCK TRANSPORTING LABORERS WAS AMBUSHED BY TERRORISTS, WHO KILLED 22 AND WOUNDED 14. THE REPORT ADDED THAT TERRORISTS USED BAYONETS AND MACHETES TO KILL THEIR VICTIMS, MUTILATE BODIES AND DISFIGURE WOUNDED.

2. PRESS COVERAGE WAS LOW-KEY, WITH NO EDITORIAL NOTICE TAKEN OR ATTEMPT TO DRAMATIZE INCIDENT.

3. A USUALLY RELIABLE MILITARY SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT THE

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ATTACK DID TAKE PLACE. HE EXPLAINED ITS APPARENT SENSELESSNESS

BY REMARKING THAT DURING COFFEE HARVESTING SEASON EACH YEAR
TERRORISTS ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE AFRICANS FROM GOING TO
PLANTATIONS TO WORK, THEREBY HOPING TO REDUCE HARVEST. WHEN
QUERIED ON VERY LOW-KEY HANDLING OF STORY THUS FAR, HE
REPLIED THAT THESE TYPES OF ATTROCITIES ARE COMMONPLACE,
ARE CARRIED IN EACH MONTH'S COMMUNIQUE, AND ATTRACT NO
ATTENTION. HE FELT THERE WAS NO POINT IN PUSHING THIS
STORY, AS IT WOULD ONLY APPEAR TO BE A PORTUGUESE ATTEMPT TO
DIVERT ATTENTION FROM WIRIYAMU.

4. LOCAL AFRICAN SOURCE, A REPORTER WHO IS NOT ALWAYS
RELIABLE, CLAIMS THAT STORY IS FABRICATION, TO DISTRACT
ATTENTION FROM PURPORTED MOZAMBIQUE MASSACRE.

5. CONSULATE OFFICERS WILL BE TRAVELING IN AREA NEXT WEEK
AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP FURTHER FACTS.
BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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